

Bureau of Land Management

Boise Smokejumpers

ACTION SUMMARY 1997

BLM BOISE SMOKEJUMPERS

Action Summary 1997

1997 was a slow fire season in the western United States. The BLM Boise Smokejumpers put 232 firefighters on 41 fires in Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and Idaho. Most activity occurred in Nevada with 21 (52%) of the fires jumped out of Battle Mountain and Ely. Colorado accounted for 24% of the action with 10 fires, while Utah and Idaho accounted for a total of 10 fires. Boise smokejumpers also made 136 fire jumps in Alaska. The first fire was on March 23 in Idaho and the last was in Idaho on October 1.

96% of the initial attack fires were contained within the first twenty-four hours. 71% of the jumper fires in the Great Basin were smaller than 10 acres when attacked, and these fires grew little (13%) in size before control.

13 smokejumpers successfully completed initial ram-air parachute training. This included 5 rookies and 13 transfers from the USFS.

The Boise smokejumpers provided an aircraft and personnel to the USFS's West Yellowstone smokejumper base and received smokejumper support from that base in the Great Basin.

1997 showed a significant increase of Boise smokejumper participation in prescribed fire and hazardous fuel reduction projects in the great Basin. Forty Boise smokejumpers executed prescribed burns for fire managers in Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, and Oregon from April 12 through October 23.

Summary Statistics:

Crew configuration: 64

60	Smokejumpers
3	Smokejumper Pilots
1	Staff Assistant

Fires attacked: 41

36	Jumped
5	Driven

Smokejumpers on fire: 232

IA effectiveness (time from IA to containment <24 hours):

IA fires	24/25 (96%)
Reinforcement fires	8/10 (80%)

Training and experimental jumps: 938

Total jumps: 1109

Visiting jumpers used in Boise operations: 28

Alaska 5
 McCall 13
 West Yellowstone 10

Boise jumpers used in other smj operations: 136

Alaska 136

Fires by location:

State	# fires	Agency	District/Forest	# fires
Colorado	10	BLM	Craig	1
		BLM	Grand Junction	8
		USFS	Uncompahgre NF	1
Idaho	4	BLM	Shoshone	1
		FWS	Deer Flat NWR	1
		USFS	Payette NF	1
		BLM	Boise	1
Nevada	21	BLM	Battle Mtn.	8
		BLM	Elko	4
		BLM	Ely	5
		BLM	Winnemucca	3
		USFS	Humboldt NF	1
Utah	6	BLM	Moab	5
		STATE	Moab	1

Fire missions by departure point: 46 missions to 41 fires

Battle Mtn.	12
Boise	6
Ely	7
Grand Junction	20
St. George	1

Dry runs due to wind, Great Basin operations:

Rounds 1/8 (12%)
 Ram Airs 1/36 (2%)

Fires by cause:

Burn pile 1	Campfire 1
Escaped RX (PNF) 1	Lightning 35
Train 1	Unknown 2

Fire size distribution # of fires	% growth from arrival to control
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A (.1-.24 ac.)	11/41 (26.83%)	0%
B (.24-9 ac.)	18/41 (43.90%)	20%
C (10-99 ac.)	5/41 (12.20%)	20%
D (100-299 ac.)	2/41 (4.80%)	57%
E (300-999 ac.)	3/41 (7.32%)	94%
F (1000-4999 ac.)	1/41 (2.44%)	0%
G (5000+ac.)	1/41 (2.44%)	0%

Number of smokejumpers per fire:

2	12/41 (29%)
3-4	9/41 (22%)
5-6	3/41 (7%)
7-8	12/41 (29%)
8+	5/41 (12%)

Parachuting injuries:

Injury	Category	Date	Cause
None*			

* MTDC Parachute Landing Injury Data System categories are used here. They are:

Minor Injury: AAny injury that removes a jumper from jump status for 1 week or less, but allows the jumper to perform light duty with no lost time due to the injury.®

Serious Injury: AAny injury that exceeds the definition of a minor injury.®

Prescribed fire:

Prescribed fire projects: 22

Hazard fuel reduction projects: 2

Acres burned: 11890

Smpokejumpers on projects: 67

number of days on projects: 105

Total man hours: 6123

By Location:

State	Agency	District	# fires	# days	# jumpers	Acres burned
Arizona:	NPS	Saguaro NP	2	14	2	Piles
	NPS	Grand canyon	1	7	1	300
California:	NPS	Whiskey town NP	2	19	2	250
	NPS	Lava Beds NP	1	3	1	Haz. fuel reduction
Idaho:	USFS	Idaho city	2	4	5	300

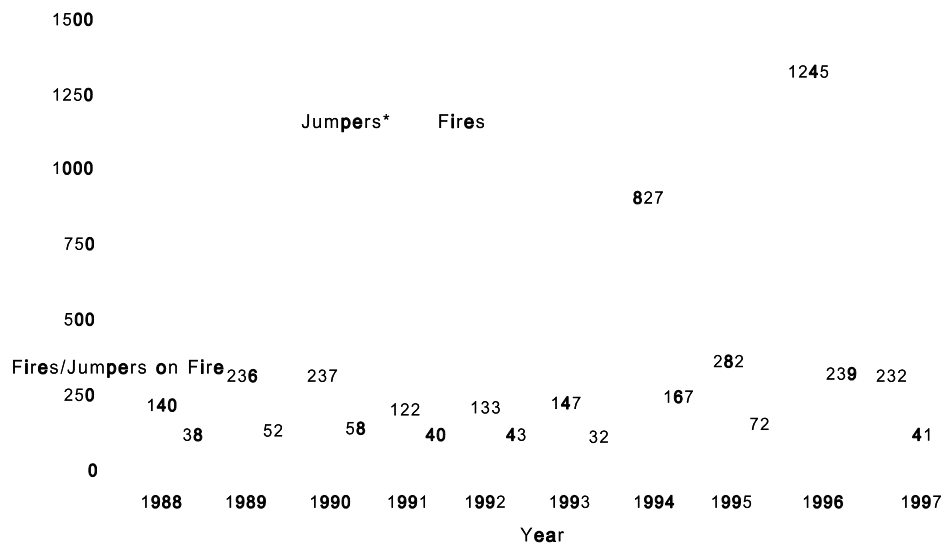
	State	South	2	4	15	600
	Parks	Ponderosa	1	1	4	20
Nevada:	BLM	Ely	1 (pnf)	3	3	1500
	FWS	Ruby Lakes	1	4	6	350
New Mexico:	BLM	Socorro RA	4	15	10	4500
	BLM	Farmington RA	1 project	6	10	70
	NPS	Bandelier NP	1	11	1	Piles
Oregon:	FWS	Heart Mountain	4	15	8	4000

Jumper/fire statistics, 1988-1997

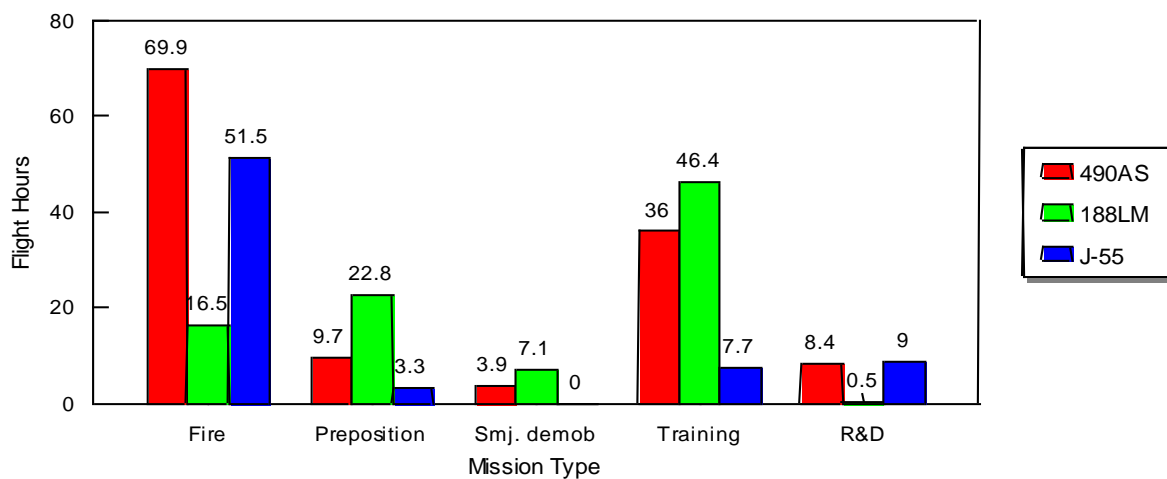
Year	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Jumpers	140	236	237	122	133	147	827	282	1245	232
Fires	38	52	58	40	43	32	167	72	239	41

BLM Boise Smokejumper Fire Statistics

1988-1997



Mission by Flight Hours
10/28/96-10/02/97



AIRCRAFT STATISTICS

Fleet Configuration:

OAS DHC-6 Twin Otter 490AS
 BLM C23-A Sherpa 188LM
 Contract Otter DHC-6 (Leading Edge) C-FSJB (J-55)

Visiting Smj. Aircraft:

USFS R-1 DHC-6 Twin Otter C-GKBG(J-14)
 USFS R-4 TDC-3 142Z

Flight hours, BLM Boise Smokejumper Ops: 10/28/96-10/02/97

Mission	Boise A/C			USFS A/C		Mission Totals
	490AS	188LM	J-55	142Z	J-14	
Fire (IA, PC, Patrol)	69.9	16.5	51.5	0	0	137.9
Preposition	9.7	22.8	3.3	6.0	8.2	50.0
Smj. Retrieval	3.9	7.1	0	0	0	11
Maintenance	3.2	9.9	0	0	0	13.1
Administration	0	9.7	0	0	0	9.7
Training (pilot,spt,smj)	36.0	46.4	7.7	0	0	90.1
Experimental (R &D)	8.4	0.5	9.0	0	0	17.9
Total Hours per Plane	131.1	112.9	71.5	6.0	8.2	329.7